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BRIEFER ARTICLES.

Polygonum persicarioides HBK.—According to Hemsley (Biol. Cent. Am. III, 34) the range of this plant is from Mexico to Chili and Peru. It is represented in the National Herbarium by the Wilkes' Expedition plant from Lima, Peru; by an unnamed plant collected by Botteri near Orizaba, Mexico, and numbered 1163; and by three plants that had been referred to *Polygonum persicaria* L., viz., Palmer's no. 137, collected in 1885 in S. W. Chihuahua, Mex.: Palmer's no. 211, collected in 1887 near Angeles Bay, Lower California; and the Mexican Boundary Survey plant no. 1183, collected in the valley of the Rio Grande, below Donna Ana, N. Mex. Recently Mr. H. Wurzlow sent this species from Industry, Austin Co., Texas, which extends its range into the United States.

All these plants mentioned agree essentially with the description in HBK., Gen. Pl. II, 179, with some exceptions. First, the leaves are not glabrous below, but *above;* while *below* they are "beset with numerous minute hairs." I may add: midrib below and margin beset with coarser appressed hairs in all our specimens. It must be that the first description is wrong on this point. Then, the leaves are in no case "7—8 lines wide," but ⅜ in. to ½ in.; the Angeles Bay plant having some leaves as wide as ⅝ in. Furthermore, the description has "Calyx 4-parted . . . Stamens 6 according to Bonpland. . . . Achene lenticular." I have frequently found the calyx 5-parted, stamens as many as 8, and the achenes in the Angeles Bay and the Orizaba plant—the latter from one of the stations cited in Biol. Centr. Am. l. c.—as well as in the Texas plant, are triangular: all, however, of the same size, and all "umbonate," as in the first description.

This species is distinguished from *P. persicaria* L. by its narrower, longer leaves, more slender spikes and smaller achenes.—J. M. HOLZINGER, *Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

New Mosses of North America.—The following brief diagnoses are published in advance of fuller descriptions in order to secure priority. We hope to prepare shortly the fifth number of our series under the above title, in THE BOTANICAL GAZETTE.

Dichodontium olympicum n. sp.—A D. *pellucida* jam multo robustiore primo visu differt: foliis valde papillosis, toto fere ambitu minute denticulatis, capsulaque basi strumosa. Planta humilis, vix 1 cent. alta.—Olympic Mts., Wash. (*L. F. Henderson.*)

Grimmia Hendersoni n. sp.—*G. decipienti* Lindb. (G. *Schultzii* Wils.) proxima sed ab ea pedicello longiore, capsula subcylindrica magis elongata, operculo longius rostrato et foliorum rete basilari multo laxiore facillima distinguenda.—Hood River, Oregon, on dry rocks. (*L. F. Henderson*).

Encalypta lacera n. sp.—Ab *Enc. vulgari* proxima differt calyptra basi lacerata, peristomio e membrana alba fugacissima lacerata composito et pedicello longiore.—Milwaukie, Oregon, Willamette River, (*L. F. Henderson*).

Leskea obtusa n. sp.—Formis robustioribus *L. polycarpæ* similis. sed ab illis primo aspectu foliis obtusis marginibus planis distincta, A *L. obscura* habitu valde robustiore, foliis majoribus et magis obtusis, costa breviore et capsula majore et longiore quoque differt.—Bethlehem, Pa., mixed with *Anomodon obtusifolius* (*Rau.*) Chinchuba, La., near Mandeville, on trees (*Langlois*).—F. RENAULD AND J. CARDOT, *Monaco, and Stenay, France.*